PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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LECTURE LXXXVIII.

LADY LINLITHGOW'S APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF INDIA.

"In ancient times you, in India, have had your warrior women, as we have had in Great Britain, and many are the tales told of women's courage and endurance. The same blood still runs in the veins of the women of to-day, and it must not be said that we are either unable or unwilling to emulate our sisters of the past.

"Then armies used more primitive weapons, their movements were slower, their methods more cumbersome, there was more time to organise resistance. In these days of rapid movement we get very little notice of attack, especially attack from the air, and it is essential that every woman in India should be prepared to play her part. The warriors of old were never faced with a more ruthless foe. The Nazis of the East and the Nazis of the West, theirs is the same creed. Only by fear can they rule; only by extermination of those who oppose them can they drive their creed home. In Germany to-day nothing is sacred. Children are separated from their mothers—they are taught what to think—they are told what to believe. By order of the State they spy on their parents. There is only one god—Hitler—there is only one faith—ruthlessness. Unmarried girls are encouraged to bear children. They are told that

they should be proud to bear sons and daughters by soldiers who are fighting for what they call the Fatherland, but we know that they are fighting for world domination. They are fighting to reduce the world to slavery. We are all to be puppets, with no wills of our own, no freedom of thought, no religion.

"Women of India, to you I appeal, whatever the political faith of your menfolk. Motherhood, to you, as to me, is sacred. You have sons, as I have, fighting for freedom, fighting against the aggressor, fighting to protect our Homeland. For this is what is now facing us. The war has been far from us, and it has been difficult for us in India to realise that it was our concern. But now the enemy is at our gates. The Nazis of Asia are apt pupils, and their methods differ very little from those of their masters.

"I have faith in the women of this country. Let us go forward, you and I—let us show the world that the women of India are second to none in their determination to withstand the invader at whatever cost. Remember too, that the enemy has weapons other than arms which he employs to undermine our morale, our steadfastness. He knows that a spirit of defeatism is his best ally, and it is this spirit which we must counter. Do not listen to baseless rumours, do not be led astray by his propaganda. Square your shoulders, hold your heads high, and remember that when you join the Women's Auxiliary Corps that the letters W. A. C. also stand for Wisdom, Assurance, Courage."

HITLER'S YEAR OF DOOM?

by

JOHN GORDON.

In Britain as well as in the United States the unforeseen success of the Japanese is not having the result which both Germany and Japan undoubtedly hoped. It is not panicking either of the democratic Powers into slackening its grip on Germany in order to stiffen resistance to Japan.

That is not to say that Japan is being underrated. She is not being underrated because, whatever may have been the view of her power taken before she entered war, her immense successes since then have given a pretty clear indication that she is a formidable enemy.

But we are not losing sight of the fact that the first and greatest world danger is Germany; the first and greatest task is to beat Germany; and, until Nazism has been crushed in Germany, no peace is possible in the world.

DEFEAT OF HITLER THIS YEAR?

There is a growing belief that the defeat of Hitler is possible this year. It is realised that the only hope the Nazis have is for the Japanese diversion to draw off some of the strength of the attack on Germany. For a time there seemed to be a possibility of that. The failure of the democratic Powers to centre sea power in the Eastern seas; the quick collapse of Malaya and Singapore; the inroads made into Burma and the Dutch East Indies; the peril to India and Australia—all this gave rise to a loud demand that more should be done to block the path of the Japanese, lest the whole East fall.

More is being done. Troops are pouring east. Airplane strength is being expanded with great rapidity; and the sea battles are a sign that sea power is also being enforced. **But no strength is being taken from the steel strong battering-ram that is being prepared for the summer blow on Germany—the decisive battle of the war. The preparations that are being made for it in this little island fortress would stagger the world if the full story could be told.**

HITLER'S ERROR.

A measure of what is being achieved may be gathered from a contrast with the situation when the Battle of Britain ended. It has now been revealed that when the *Luftwaffe* finally acknowledged defeat and gave up hope of forcing an invasion of Britain, Britain had only nine airplanes in reserve. It has also been revealed that, at the fateful moment when invasion seemed imminent, Hitler had 200 divisions fully armed and flushed with the certainty of victory standing in France, while in all Britain there was not one fully armed division to meet him. History will say that his failure to force an invasion then lost Hitler the greatest victory in world history and made his defeat inevitable.

It is small things that turn fate. What made Hitler hesitate may never be known. But it was a fatal, catastrophic hesitation. Now he faces a Britain that is a mighty military force and the greatest air power in the world, and is rapidly becoming an even greater—in spite of all the strain—sea power.

SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS.

With that force on his western frontier he faces in the east a Russian army proved in the field to be mightier than his own. That army boasts that it will be in Berlin this year. The steps it is taking towards the German frontier indicate that the boast may well prove true.

Meanwhile the British air force is getting ready a bombing programme by the greatest fleet of heavy bombers ever built, to smash the cities of Germany. An army stands in Britain straining at the leash for the order to begin a new invasion of Europe. The parachute raid on France is an indication that entry into Europe is possible. What is done on a small scale can be done on a titanic scale if the will is there. And make no mistake that it is there.

This is going to be Hitler's year of doom. After that the Japanese will learn that there is another side to war than swift victories won by stabbing the enemy in the back.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

21—3—42 to 26—3—42.

Australia is now stripped for action against the Far Eastern foe, in complete co-ordination with NEW ZEALAND and AMERICA, though, as President Roosevelt remarked the co-operation has yet to be given a 'fancy name' by setting up a Pacific War Council in WASHINGTON. Australian and New Zealand representatives will soon be included in the Anglo-American Combined Chiefs of Staff Group.

Lieut. General Brett, Deputy Supreme Commander, S. W. Pacific, declared on Wednesday last, 'AUSTRALIA can now be held against any large scale Japanese attack. All jumping off places are being watched. The supply of aircraft is the maximum possible. Nothing within reason has been refused by WASHINGTON'. He added that arrangements for a unified control and the complete pooling of resources had been carried out.

Mr. MacArthur has also indicated an early offensive. Speaking in his first interview in AUSTRALIA on Saturday last he declared that he had come to AUSTRALIA for organising the *American offensive* against JAPAN the primary object of which would be the relief of the PHILIPPINES. 'I will return to the PHILIPPINES', he significantly added.

Whether from temporary exhaustion, or the lengthening of her supply line or the heavy loss of transport ships and the smaller war vessels recently sustained, JAPAN's southward drive has slowed down in tempo, though it is likely, that, in view of her large resources still remaining, she will, after recuperation, resume another *blitz*. But, in

that event it is certain that AUSTRALIA, with its vast terrain, like CHINA, and infinitely better armed would prove a tougher job for the invader than confined and limited spaces like MALAYA and JAVA. The enemy cannot certainly use the raw materials of the conquered areas as they have been scorched, nor transport them, if any were left, owing to shortage of transport and the presence of the Allied Fleet on the high seas. The Allies are daily increasing their sea offensive against enemy shipping, aircraft and aerodromes along the entire 1,600 miles length from KOCHANG (Dutch TIMOR) to the SOLOMON ISLANDS to the north-east of AUSTRALIA.

The cheerful news of a successful raid in February on the MARCUS (Japanese owned) and WAKE (Japanese occupied) Islands by the United States Naval and Air forces, has now reached us. In this encounter, 2 enemy patrol boats and 3 sea planes were destroyed, and aircraft run ways and defence batteries were damaged. As MARCUS is only 990 miles from YOKOHAMA, JAPAN got into a terror, with the result that the lights of TOKYO were blacked out for several nights afterwards.

The enemys' advance along the MARKHAM valley (NEW GUINEA) is slow, and his claim to have taken MORESBY is denied, though it is known that the place has been raided during the week more than once. The enemy also raided BROOME, KATHERINE and DARWIN on or near the Australian coast line.

Australian planes raid SAUMLIKI (on the Island of YAMDENA), RABAUL (where two Japanese cruisers were seriously damaged), LAE, and KOCHANG.

Burma.—In BURMA too, owing no doubt to increasing Allied resistance the pace of the enemy advance has largely slackened. The 5th and 6th Armies which constitute the Chinese Expeditionary Force in BURMA the very best of the Chinese forces for quality and equipment are now under the command of Lieut. General Joseph Stillwell of the UNITED STATES and play an important part.

Of the two Burman roads now in the battle line the Allied Forces have abandoned the part of the PROME (Irrawaddy) Road held at THARRAWADDY as the Japanese have advanced higher up along the other (MANDALAY) road. By sailing along the Irrawaddy and by infiltration through the Yomas (Jungle) they have reached TOUNGOO where the contacting Chinese armies have had a minor clash and drawn first blood south of PYU, inflicting 70 casualties. The Japanese are

also reported to have assembled heavy concentrations at CHIENGMAI in North-Western SIAM for another attack on TOUNGOO from due East.

Japanese troops in the Lepadan area have been mopped up. The R. A. F. has made successful raids on MOULMEIN and MINGALADON. A. V. G. planes raided CHIANAY in THAI.

The Philippines.—General Wain wright has succeeded General MacArthur in the command of the PHILIPPINES and one of his first acts has been to reject General Yamashita's demand for surrender and to attack instead the Japanese positions at ZAMBOANGA in MINDANAO. Japanese planes bombed CORREGIDOR and BATAAN.

China.—Japanese warships appeared off the mouth of the Min River and shelled Chinese positions near CHANGMAN to the east of FOOCHOW and CHUNGSHAN (TAIPING) district to the west of HONGKONG. The Chinese raided a port near WENHSEIN.

The Andaman Islands have been occupied by the enemy. The small British garrison there and a considerable proportion of the convicts and the civilian population have been evacuated.

Russia.—'Perfect Hell' is said to reign over the entire front. Finnish regiments attempting to penetrate the Soviet lines in the Karelian front were routed. The defence lines round KHARKOV have been penetrated and General Brauchitsch has been brought back from his sick bed in view of the impending disaster. Violent fighting continues at TAGANROG. At STARAYA RUSSA the imprisoned soldiers are compelled to fight to the last bullet and those fleeing from the Russians are exposed to the fire from the officers' dug-outs. The number of surrendering soldiers in this sector is increasing.

During the last week the *Luftwaffe's* losses on the Russian front amounted to 249 machines.

An enemy transport of 3,500 tons was sunk in the Barentz Sea.

King Boris of BULGARIA has left for BERLIN in connection with Hitler's demands for reinforcements.

Rumania is said to have promised to send to GERMANY 15,000 men in addition to 300,000 already sent and 5,000 workers. HUNGARY will send 22,000 men and 5,000 workers.

Libya.—There was some enemy activity in the area south of TMIMI and British patrols which were active in spite of enemy shelling captured some enemy vehicles. R. A. F. successfully attacked

MARTUBA, BERKA, DERNA, HASSANI (GREECE), HERAKLION, RETUMO and TYMHAKI (CRETE).

Two U-boats, 2 supply ships, 6 schooners and one motor vessel were successfully attacked in the Mediterranean by British submarines.

On Sunday a force of 5 British light cruisers and destroyers under Rear Admiral P. L. Vian, covering a convoy of vital supplies to Malta, engaged a force of Italian warships consisting of a powerful battleship, two heavy and four light cruisers and a flotilla and drove them off, hitting the battleship. The convoy reached MALTA safely with the loss of a merchant ship. In the words of, Mr. Churchill it ' constitutes a naval episode of the highest distinction.

The Yellow Peril.--The Nazis have come suddenly to discover a Yellow Peril in the rapid successes of JAPAN in the FAR EAST and have started a propaganda for an European alliance to stave it off. The aim of course is to distract Allied attention in Europe.

War Production Board.—In his first speech before the House of Commons, as War Production Minister Captain Lyttleton outlined the creation of a Joint War Production Board consisting of the Assistant Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy and Air Forces and the technical officers of the 3 Production Ministries. These will be served by a Planning Group and work in close co-operation with Anglo-American organisations and the Dominions' liaison officers. The aim is to bring about complete fusion between military plans and thoughts and production plans and thoughts. One of the chief tasks will be the dovetailing of British raw materials and production with the U. S. and Empire resources.

Women's Auxiliary Corps for India.—On the front page we print Her Excellency, the Marchioness of Linlithgow's stirring appeal to the Women of India to enlist in the Women's Auxiliary corps of which she will be the Commandant-in-Chief. The scheme is intended to give an opportunity to all women of every caste, creed and nationality to serve in the national emergency. Local platoons will be formed to which voluntary enlistments will be made for the duration of the war. 'Among the duties to which women may be called, are those of switch board operators, telephone orderlies, wireless operators, clerks in offices and units, store-women in the ordnance, 'plotters' in the observer corps, mess sergeants in reinforcement camps, drivers of staff cars and ambulances etc.'

March 29—Palm Sunday will be observed as a Day of National Prayer as desired by His Majesty the King-Emperor.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
16—3—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information about day and night air activity.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The aerodrome near BARCE.			
Shipping and harbour installations at BENGHAZI.			
SICILY. (By British planes)			
The aerodrome at CATANIA.		1 plane.	
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes.)			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		15 planes.	47 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at RABAUL.			
NEW GUINEA (By Jap planes).			
The harbour at LAYE.			
17—3—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available about day and night bombing.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy landing ground at MARTUBA.			
The harbour at TRIPOLI.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By British planes).			
Enemy shipping in the central MEDITERRANEAN.	1 ship burnt out; another damaged.		
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		16 planes.	44 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Japanese ships in and near SALAMAUA and LAE.			
18—3—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Offensive sweeps over the forward areas in CYRENAICA.			
Military objectives at BENGHAZI.			
The landing ground at MARTUBA.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		7 planes.	18 planes.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at MOULMEIN. **The landing grounds** near MOULMEIN.			15 planes. Set on fire.
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissance over Port MORESBY.			
PACIFIC. (By American and British planes).			
A point in SOLOMON Islands **area.**			
19—3—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The aerodrome and the aircraft on the ground at MARTUBA.			1 plane.
Enemy landing grounds in the ZUILA—TEMISSAN District.			5 planes.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front. — 14 planes. 37 planes.

FAR EAST—NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).

Japanese vessels in the harbour at RABAUL. — A large enemy cruiser directly hit.

NEW GUINEA (By American and British planes).

Jap positions in SALAMAUA and LAE area.

BURMA. (By American and British planes).

Enemy supply columns behind the front.

20—3—42 (Friday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).

No information available.

LIBYA. (By British planes).

Offensive sweeps in the forward areas.

The landing grounds at DERNA and BERKA.

Military objectives at BENGHAZI.

The aerodrome and aircraft on the aerodrome at MARTUBA.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Aircraft on aerodromes and air combats along the whole front. — 5 planes. 25 planes.

FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).

HMAWBI. — Big fires started.

The landing ground north of BASSEIN.

NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).

Jap warships at RABAUL. — 2 cruisers seriously damaged.

21—3—42 (Saturday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).

No information available.

LIBYA. (By British planes).

Aerodromes at BERKA and DERNA.

The shipping and harbour at BENGHAZI.

RUSSIA (By Russian planes).

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole front. — 14 planes. 53 planes.

GREECE. (By British planes).

HERAKLION.

CRETE. (By British planes).

RETIMO and **TYMPAKI.**

FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes)

Japanese aircraft and troops at LAE. — Heavy casualties. 3 bombers.

NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).

RABAUL and **KOEPPANG.**

22—3—42 (Sunday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).

NIGHT:—

Patrol over the North SEA.

LIBYA. (By British planes).

The landing ground at MARTUBA.

Offensive sweeps over the forward areas in CYRENAICA.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front. — 11 planes. 26 planes.

FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).

The aerodrome at MINGALADON. — 10 planes.

Other Jap airfields in Southern BURMA.

TIMOR (Portuguese). (By American and British planes).

DILLE.

NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).

RABAUL.

NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).

Reconnaissance over SALAMAUA and LAE areas.

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
17—3—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		1 plane.	
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.			
18—3—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—			
South-west coast of ENGLAND.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes).			
Port DARWIN.			
19—3—42 (Thursday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No air activity at all.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		2 planes.	
RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
Vicinity of MOSCOW.		5 planes.	
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes)			
Reconnaissances over Japanese occupied part of NEW GUINEA and PAPUA area.			
20—3—42 (Friday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No air activity at all over ENGLAND.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		2 planes.	
RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
Vicinity of MOSCOW.		6 planes.	
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.	No damage or casualties.		
AUSTRALASIA. (By Jap planes).			
SAUMLIKI (on the Island of YAMDENA).			
21—3—42 (Saturday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		12 planes.	
RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
Vicinity of MOSCOW.		2 planes.	
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
A town in Central BURMA.			
NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Reconnaissance over Port MORESBY.			
22—3—42 (Sunday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
A point in South east-ENGLAND.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		17 planes.	
FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes).			
KATHERINE.			
BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
Airfields in central BURMA.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
23—3—42 (Monday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—				
Several areas in South-east coast of ENGLAND.				
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.				
	RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
Vicinity of MOSCOW.			3 planes.	
	FAR EAST—BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
Allied airfields in central BURMA.				
	NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.				

SIDE LIGHTS.

GREAT PREPARATIONS are in progress for the coming spring offensive. Hitler is increasing war production, harnessing forced and foreign labour. To this we adverted in an earlier issue.

Simultaneously Allied preparations are mounting. Mr. Ernest Bevin gave the assurance on Friday that man-power in BRITAIN is 'better than in GERMANY' and that British War production was 'the marvel of the world'. Mr. Attlee, speaking later in the week, substantiated Mr. Bevin's statement by revealing that the production of war-stores, tanks, naval tonnage and merchant shipping had increased 10, 5, 4 and 2 times respectively.

In the U. S. in spite of political squabbles, labour disputes, bottle necks and complacency Mr. Donald Wilson's drive has caused a flood-tide in production. As the latest figures show Canadian exports have doubled and trebled respectively and reached in February 1942 the enormous figures of 59,000,000; 3,991,000; 17,000,000; 3,297,000; and 1,600,000, dollars respectively for BRITAIN, RUSSIA, EGYPT, IRAQ, and NEW ZEALAND.

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IMPRESSIVE FIGURES. Simultaneously with the growth of Allied strength the enemy's potential is going down. The Nazi losses for the last month on the Russian battlefield are

impressive: 43 tanks, 285 guns, 83 trench mortars, 491 machine-guns, 236 automatic rifles, 3,804 rifles, 28 aircraft, 4 gliders, 794 lorries, enormous quantities of shells, bombs, ammunition, explosives, locomotives, rolling-stock, horses etc., with 40,000 officers and men killed; with 331 towns and 25,000 inhabitants liberated.

Duing winter the R. A. F. offensive against GERMANY was not up to schedule-one reason being the unprecedented weather, and the other, the prior demands of RUSSIA, the MIDDLE EAST, and the campaign against the U-boat in the Atlantic. With the improvement in the weather the R. A. F. offensive has been resumed in all intensity as Renault and Matford already know—and ESSEN the home of Krupp's-the largest iron and steel works in the world knows also.

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THE DEFENCE OF INDIA. The capture of RANGOON has cut off not only the land route—the BURMA Road, but also the sea route to BURMA and CHINA. Four alternative land routes that are said to exist may not be immediately effective. While after completion the INDO CHINA Road will no doubt be the natural line of Allied land offensive against JAPAN, for the present, Central and Upper BURMA form a corridor which, in the interests of BURMA and INDIA alike should be defended at all costs, For this reason General Sir Archibald Wavell has pointed out that 'the building of a strong air force in North-East INDIA, which will not content itself with defence but will attack the enemy will be one of the principal means of safeguarding INDIA'; and Air Marshal Sir Richard Peirse has added 'We are not going to be content to put up an umbrella, sit underneath and wait for the enemy to come and attack us. We are going to carry the war into the enemy's country—into JAPAN'.

Wavell has also said that while owing to its menace to INDIA the fall of RANGOON is even more serious than the loss of SINGAPORE, BURMA is easier to defend as its communications run in depth behind the fighting line. In the defence of INDIA he has added 'mobile tactics' will be employed in preference to 'extended lines' or 'fixed points' as in the case of small areas like BRITAIN or MALTA. River flotillas (gun boats, etc.,) will guard the waterways. Large towns will be defended with planes and guns; while the most important defence would be of course, the spirit and morale of the people.

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THE PANAMA CANAL OF THE FAR-EAST. The straits of MALACCA and the strait of SUNDA are the Panama canal of the FAR EAST. If JAPAN is to hold her conquests over the myriad islands of the West Pacific, and in CHINA and BURMA, she

must have the command of the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific at these straits, and own a two ocean navy. In lieu thereof JAPAN is trying to cover her great sea-distances by consolidating a large number of air and naval bases but Allied strategy is strangling JAPAN by holding the Anzac region at one end and the Indian Ocean at the other.

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WHERE IS THE U. S. NAVY? To the Allied statement, that AMERICA has a Navy in the Pacific 'somewhere', the Japanese retort has been 'where is the U. S. Navy?' The Japanese have already had a taste of its presence. During the week ending March 6, for instance, U. S. submarines operating in the Far Eastern waters have sunk one destroyer, and one large naval tanker; and hit one aircraft carrier and two cruisers. If JAPAN would wait a little longer, she would soon be left without a doubt of the whereabouts of the American Navy.

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AXIS STRATEGY. In a recent thoughtful article the *Times* has dealt with the question of Axis strategy. JAPAN'S objective is threefold, the separation of British and American sea-power in the Pacific, the seizure of war-materials in British and Dutch possessions in the South-West Pacific, of which both the Axis robbers are in great need, and thirdly the division of the world's spoils in territory after a combined final victory. Looked at from these standpoints the *Times* is of the opinion that the present Australian invasion is only a diversion while the main Japanese drive will be towards the Indian Ocean, particularly, the Arabian Sea, timed so as to coincide with a German drive towards EGYPT, the CAUCASUS, SYRIA, IRAQ and PERSIA. This appears to be the dream both of Hitler and Tojo.

However grandiose the scheme may be the Allies are leaving nothing to chance, but are doing everything to strengthen the MIDDLE EAST. The MIDDLE EAST is a vital link of the Empire connecting INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AFRICA and BRITAIN. While RUSSIA confronts GERMANY'S land power, BRITAIN with her land and sea-power stands guard over the MIDDLE EAST bridge-head and the maritime approaches to RUSSIA.

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VICHY. There is good reason why VICHY should figure in the news again since the outbreak of hostilities in the FAR EAST. All the sea-way from JAPAN to AMERICA is strewn with French possessions, NEW CALEDONIA and NEW HEBRIDES in AUSTRALASIA; and SOCIETY ISLANDS (TAHITI, etc.) in OCEANIA. The first

group links AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY) with AMERICA (VAN COUVER and SAN FRANCISCO) and the second group joins NEW ZEALAND (WELLINGTON) with AMERICA (PANAMA). In among them lie a few British bases such as British NEW CALEDONIA, PITCAIRN and the COOK ISLANDS.

After the collapse of FRANCE the Free French Government took over the French Pacific possessions of NEW HEBRIDES (administered in condominium with BRITAIN) in August 1940, TAHITI, MARQUEZAS (by a plebiscite of 5,564 votes to 18) and NEW CALEDONIA in September. A fortnight after JAPAN declared war Vichy appointed Admiral Decoux, Governor-General of INDO-CHINA as High Commissioner for the Pacific Islands also, which, of course, meant surrender to JAPAN and treachery, but U. S. forestalled the move by recognising the authority of the Free French Government over this area. MADAGASCAR, in the Indian Ocean is also a Vichy possession, lying close to the British posts of DURBAN and CAPE TOWN (South AFRICA). It lies athwart imperial communications and constitutes a serious menace, should VICHY, in her uncertain attitude, hand it over to the enemy. Vichy's promise that it will not be *willingly* allowed to fall into enemy hands is equivocal. Earlier reports that the Vichy–Washington talks over this matter have reached a satisfactory conclusion are with out foundation.

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ANOTHER ALLY joined the United Nations on March 1. In CHUNGKING on that day, on the occasion of the celebration of its 23rd anniversary, the Korean Army of Independence issued a manifesto agreeing to participate with the Allied forces in defeating JAPAN as a means of restoring their country to independence. The Korean Freedom movement had its origin on the day of the death of their deposed Emperor, when 200,000 Koreans assembled at SEOUL, the capital of KOREA and 33 of their leaders presented the Japanese tyrants with a Declaration of Independence. For this act of patriotism 11,000 Koreans were flogged and imprisoned. But the independence movement has thriven on this punishment and is now a formidable foe to JAPAN. KOREA is a country of 86,000 square miles with 21 million people. They originally civilised the Japanese island savages and gave them Buddhism and literature. In return JAPAN waged a six years' war, deposed their Emperor in 1910 and is conferring co-prosperity now by repression and torture. Korean culture itself is in danger: Korean language and Korean history have been banned from schools.

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CO-SUFFERER. Japanese co-prosperity has led to the co-suffering of the conquered people. Closely allied with the Korean enslavement is that of MANCHUKUO. Here is a revelation of

Japanese tyranny in MANCHUKUO as revealed by a citizen of the Axis group—an Italian eye-witness and follower of Mussolini, Amleto Vespa by name in his book, 'Secret Agent of JAPAN' :—

'This book has been written in fulfilment of my promise to make the real truth known, to stamp up on the forehead of Japanese militarism the burning brand of Cain; to expose before the consciense of the entire World the rapacious officers of the Japanese Army; to show the unfathomable abyss of infamy into which these savages in uniform are capable of descending; and in the name of humanity, civilisation and justice, to tell of the strangling degradation to which the people of MANCHURIA have been submitted under the crushing rule.'

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'THE SECRET SOCIETIES'. What the Nazis are in GERMANY, and the Fascists in ITALY that the secret societies are in JAPAN, chief of which are the Kokuriu (the Black Dragon), the Merinkai (Society of Higher Ethics) and the Kokuhon Shai (National Foundation). They are groups of fanatics pledged to an aggressive imperialistic policy. The Black Dragon, the most formidable of the three has its branches in every village and spreads its tentacles into every home through the help of the 'Reserve Officers' Association'; their leaders are Araki—the most fanatical of the lot, a former Minister, known as the 'Japanese Mussolini' and Baron Hiranuma. Propaganda, terror, bribery, threats and political assassinations are their handy weapons. In the last 10 years they have had the distinction of killing at least two Prime Ministers (Hamaguchi and Inukai), one Admiral (Viscount Saito), some ex-ministers (Inouye, for instance), and a banker (Takahashi).

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KYOKUTO. is the Japanese word for 'FAR EAST', and this, it is said, the Japanese Government, is proposing to banish from its language, one of the suggested reasons being that it was originally coined by Imperialistic BRITAIN. The days are gone when she admired BRITAIN and slavishly followed her. She perhaps also considers she is no longer eastern in her arts, dress, customs or culture. But the sting perhaps lies in the first of the two words. Filled with the ambition of the conquest of the whole east and the world she perhaps does not consider herself 'far' from anywhere. There will be no more east or west, and the two shall meet only for a clash; no north or south either, as Japanese ambitions extend northwards towards SIBERIA and southwards towards AUSTRALIA. Degrees of latitude and longitude have lost their meaning. East, West, North and South are now a single battlefield. The Nippon sun also in the east may perish in a sun-set conflagration lit up by the west.

MUSLIMS IN CHINA. The recent arrival in BAGHDAD of Dr. Chang, the Chinese Minister to TURKEY to negotiate a treaty of friendship between CHINA and IRAQ revives an age-old friendship between the MIDDLE EAST and the FAR EAST which has existed at least for 12 centuries. As General Nuris of TURKEY observed, 'the Prophet Mohammed had a precept : Seek knowledge even if you have to go to CHINA'. The relations between CHINA and MECCA have been continuous through history. Recently the Government of INDIA helped a number of Chinese Muslims to go to MECCA.

Muslims in CHINA who number between 10 and 15 millions are found in large numbers in the provinces of YUNAN, KWANGTUNG and KWANG-CI. Imigrants chiefly from AFGHANISTAN and TURKEY they have blended their Arabic ways with Chinese manners. Chiefly of the Sunnies sect, they own their own secular and religious institutions, of which one is the National Salvation Association of the Chinese Mohammedans. The Muslim troops of Free CHINA numbering 80,000 brave men and true, are under the leadership of Mahe-fang. General-Pai-Chung-usi, the Deputy Chief of the Chinese General staff is a Muslim of the Ma-clan. The great BURMA Road is largely the work of Muslim labour.

END OF DEFENSIVE SPIRIT ON PART OF ALLIES

ATTACK—THE ORDER OF THE DAY

by

Wickham Steed.

With the end of the winter, a marked change is noticeable in the British view of war. The defensive spirit is passing away, and an offensive spirit is replacing it.

The whole country, which has never doubted that ultimate victory would crown the Allied war effort, appears determined no longer merely to resist the enemy but to attack him wherever possible and increasingly. The foundations of victory, the British people feel, must be laid this year whether or not the defeat of the enemy be postponed till next year or later.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Two small signs of this offensive spirit are indicated by recent actions. A force of British parachute troops supported by aircraft and the Navy successfully surprised and destroyed a strong German post in Northern France and returned almost unscathed, with a number of German prisoners.

Then, a few nights later, British bombers raided and damaged severely the huge Renault automobile works near Paris which were working for Germany.

Taken together, these operations symbolise the new spirit. Except for the offensive strokes of General Wavell and General Auchinleck in Libya—both of which were followed by retreats--and for the operations that deprived Vichy France and the Axis of control of Syria, British strategy has been mainly defensive since the collapse of France in June, 1940. Even the suppression of the revolt in Iraq and expulsion of Riza Khan from Persia were defensive and preventive undertakings rather than direct attacks upon the enemy.

GREECE—CRETE—YUGOSLAVIA.

After the evacuation of the British Army from Dunkirk and the defeat of the German *Luftwaffe* in the Battle of Britain, a new British Army had to be formed, trained and equipped, and supported by war production to replace that of French factories and arsenals. Despite industrial help from the United States, this war production could not supply enough weapons and aircraft to save Greece or Crete. Yet the fighting in Greece and Crete, coupled with the twelfth-hour resistance of Yugoslavia, delayed Hitler's plans so seriously that he failed to capture Leningrad, Moscow and Rostov before winter set in.

Meanwhile Britain stood prepared to withstand a German invasion which would certainly have been attempted if Hitler could have attained his objectives in Russia.

At the most critical moment of the battle for Moscow British aircraft and tanks reached the Russian front in large numbers and helped to drive back the invaders.

EFFECT ON EASTERN SITUATION.

The supply of these weapons to Russia weakened the British and Allied position in Malaya, Singapore and the Dutch East Indies. The sweeping Japanese successes in those regions have for the present and the near future created a difficult and dangerous situation. Even if that situation should become worse before it improves, the wisdom of helping Russia at a critical moment will not be questioned. But now, while the Russians are vigorously pushing their counter-offensive and striving to forestall Hitler's expected spring offensive, the moment has come for the British forces to derange and impede German preparations in Western Europe by every available means.

Industrial establishments in Western Germany have been progressively bombed. But hitherto German industrial establishments in France have been spared. The destructive raid on the Renault works near Paris suggests that they will not be spared in future.

U. S. WAR EFFORT.

While Britain is likely to co-operate vigorously with Russia in these and other ways, the immense war effort of the United States will come increasingly into play. British opinion shares the view of General Marshall that the time has come for the United States to carry the war to the enemy.

Offensive spirit will be the order of the day in every theatre of war. Thus the war seems likely to enter a new dimension in the spring and summer of this year. Until the Russians turned on Hitler's armies last December, the enemy had everywhere held the advantage of initiative. Japanese strategy in the Pacific and Hitler's projected spring offensive were intended to retain this advantage. The United Nations now intend to begin to seize the initiative themselves and put the enemy on the defensive. Unless I am greatly mistaken, this change of spirit and intention will govern the course of the war in the coming months.

RUSSIA AWAITS SPRING WITH CONFIDENCE.

by

William Forrest in the " News Chronicle ".

Germany's spring offensive in the East is now regarded as inevitable. Russia awaits it with confidence. The morale of the Red Army was never higher. That is the gist of the information that reached me to-day from Moscow presenting what might be called a conservative estimate of forthcoming events.

When the Russians launched their winter offensive there was a fifty-fifty chance of a major defeat being inflicted on the Germans before the spring. Cutting of the Smolensk-Minsk road would have constituted a major defeat. So would the cutting of the Leningrad-Pskov railway, since that would have compelled a massive withdrawal of the Nazi forces investing Leningrad.

Great as are the successes already achieved by the Russians, they still fall short of a major victory which would have rendered the enemy powerless to mount a spring offensive. What are the grounds of the Red Army's confidence ?

GROUNDS OF CONFIDENCE.

First the nation's morale has stood the test. That was last October, when it was really touch-and-go whether Moscow would fall. If there had ever been any chance of a break in Russia's will to resist, it was the moment when it would have happened. It did not happen then, and it will never happen now.

Secondly, the Red Army has taken the measure of the enemy and now considers itself superior man for man and machine for machine. The German, when divorced from his machine, is, in the Russian army man's opinion, a poor soldier, and the Russians during the fighting in this terrible winter have succeeded over and over again in depriving the enemy of mechanical support.

TOLL OF THE SNOW.

" Only when the snows melt shall we have any idea how many Germans lie dead in Russia. **The death roll from frost-bite alone must have been appalling**". A case was cited where a number of Germans who had been shelled out of their positions were found within an hour lying on open ground, frozen to death.

The Russians regard their tanks as better than the panzers, while the *Luftwaffe*, though still strong, is attenuated by the immense front which it has to cover. Very significant in this respect was the fact that when the Nazis began to retreat from the environs of Moscow, the *Luftwaffe* failed to make any desperation raids on the city. The Russians, who have seen in the reconquered cities gruesome evidence of German atrocities—in Rostov corpses of civilians were piled high in the streets—know that it was not humanity which dictated this forbearance.

OIL A LIMITING FACTOR.

Oil will be a limiting factor in the German spring offensive. For static warfare Germany has enough oil from current production. For blitz-scale warfare she must draw on her reserves. Her present reserves are probably sufficient for a three-month *blitz*. The Russians do not think that Turkey will be involved in the spring offensive. The Russian front alone will demand all the forces that Hitler can possibly muster.

WHAT EAST INDIES ADVENTURE COST JAPANESE NAVY.

FIGHTING STRENGTH DOWN BY ONE-FIFTH.

HAVE THE GAINS BEEN WORTH WHILE?

U. S. NAVY STILL NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR.

by

H. C. Ferraby (In a recent B. B. C. talk).

Japan is making immense efforts to extend her control in the A. B. D. A. area, and is being dangerously successful, but it is worth considering even at this critical period whether Japan is pursuing the soundest policy from her own point of view.

We all know Japan's gains up to the present, but she has had losses too. Her most important losses were summarised in a recent Dutch bulletin. The bulletin gave the figures of the damage done to Japanese warships and transports in the course of the East Indian operations, not only by the navy of the Netherlands but by all the forces, sea and air, of the United Nations at work out there. Since then there have been several further sinkings of Japanese vessels.

It was a very interesting summary as it had some important lessons to teach us. **In nine weeks' operations, the Japanese Navy was weakened by the sinking, probable sinking, and damaging of 56 warships of all classes. In addition she had also had 126 transports, merchant ships and tankers either destroyed or put out of action, representing the loss to her carrying power.**

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES.

The figure of warship losses becomes more significant when we put it into relation with the total strength of the Japanese Navy. So far as is known, she started the war with about 250 warships of all types, apart from local mine-sweeping flotillas.

A loss of more than 50 ships, therefore, means that she has expended one-fifth of her naval strength in her endeavour to break down the natural barriers of the East Indies, and to get through into the Indian Ocean, or possibly down to Australia. One-fifth of a nation's fighting strength in one of its armed forces is a pretty big proportion.

It is to be noted, of course, that this total of 56 Japanese ships includes those that are only catalogued as damaged, but it must be borne in mind that they were operating at a great distance from any repair facilities. Ships damaged in the Maccassar Straits are 3,000 miles from the Japanese dockyards, they are 2,000 miles from Hong Kong, even if the dry docks there were not completely wrecked before the place was surrendered.

A journey of 2,000 miles for a damaged ship is a big risk. If she has to be towed that distance owing to engine-room damage, she must be away from the fighting line for many weeks. So that, in surveying the immediate future in the sea operations in the South-Western Pacific, it is quite fair to suggest that the Japanese resources are less than they were by one-fifth.

ONLY LOCAL COMMAND.

But there is another important point to remember. These Japanese losses were sustained in what were, in spite of their spectacular nature, only secondary operations. Though Japan has at the present time command of the sea, it still remains true that this command is only local. **Moreover, the capture of harbours and bases in the East Indies does not in itself carry with it the command of the sea.**

It is only ships that can control sea communications. To gain permanent command of the sea Japan has to gain numerical superiority over her enemies.

In spite of the United States' losses at Pearl Harbour, the United States Navy alone is numerically superior to the Japanese. It is fully capable of challenging Japanese movements at sea, as we have seen, and is already moving to do so.

To safeguard the gains which Japan has already won, she has in the end got to achieve more than her present local command of the sea. But only two or three of the Japanese naval losses, up to the present, were incurred in operations that affected the naval strength of Japan's opponents. Japan has gained one initial victory, but since then the Japanese Staff have dissipated one-fifth of their sea strength on the spectacular East Indian adventures, without in any way improving the balance of power in their favour.

STRATEGICAL BLUNDER.

The loss of those ships in a battle which impaired the fighting efficiency of the American Pacific Fleet might have been a justifiable sacrifice; their loss in the seizure of burned-out **oilfields and damaged harbours may well prove in the end a strategical blunder. After all, harbours are only useful when there are ships to use them.**

The primary operation for the Japanese Navy in this war was to establish firmly a command of the sea in order to avert any possibility of American naval operations against the Japanese mainland. Their freedom of movement in the South China Seas is only local and temporary. **They have been dazzled by the prospect of so many conquests and have put secondary things first.**

It is an old, old error in strategic planning. We have not been guiltless of it ourselves.

The German Naval Command has twice made the same mistake in successive wars. The failure of the U-boat campaign in 1917 to affect the outcome of that war taught them nothing. They have relied on commerce destruction again in this war to give them victory. They have refused to believe that that policy is a secondary object in war, and can only be usefully employed as a sequel to the attainment of the first object, the defeat and destruction of the opposing navy.

TRUE PERSPECTIVE.

In saying this, I am not overlooking the serious damage which Japan has already inflicted on the United Nations. I am not forgetting that we have lost the base which we had counted on as the pivot for our operations in those waters, the loss of the supplies and raw materials of Malaya and the East Indies and the present threat to Australia itself.

But we must still view the events of these months as a whole, and see where and how they fit into the broad picture of a long-term war. And in

doing that, we must set against the Japanese conquests of territory the naval price that she has paid for it. One-fifth of her sea strength has been wrecked on the Islands of the East Indies, and in spite of the initial setback at Pearl Harbour, the vastly superior material strength of the American Navy is all but untouched.

In the months to come that Fleet will take in from the shipyards a flood of new battleships, cruisers and destroyers, and against them the gains which Japan has of bases at distant geographical points—Singapore and Palembang and Amboina—**will not offer much assistance. The mobile ships which Japan has lost in these eight weeks will be much missed when that time comes—and that perhaps, off the shores of Japan herself.**

THE JAPANESE AIR FORCE.

AN AUTHORITATIVE ESTIMATE OF NIPPON'S BOMBER AND FIGHTER STRENGTH.

(*With acknowledgments to the* ***Illustrated Weekly of India.***)

Very great secrecy has always surrounded military and naval matters in Japan, and the Air Arm, which comes under the control of the Army and the Navy, seems to have been afforded a "super protection" against all inquiring eyes and ears from its inception. Consequently, it has been difficult to follow with any degree of certainty the detailed development of Japanese naval and military aircraft to date. Nevertheless, some general trends in policy and design have become apparent and can be roughly outlined.

The Japanese have not, so far, brought out any really original designs of their own, having preferred to copy and develop foreign types. In certain cases this development has been carried to the point where the Japanese product can no longer be classed in the same category as its foreign prototype, due to marked differences in range, load, speed, etc. In this connection it can be said that the Japanese generally seem to favour a lower wing-loading (which means lower landing speed, among other things) than either English or German designers. Later American influence became very strongly marked.

The net result of all this development is a multiplicity of types, but it is reasonable to suppose that the Japanese aircraft industry will ultimately concentrate on a limited number of well-developed models, as has been the case in both England and Germany.

Military aviation began in 1911, started by two officers who had learned flying in France. In 1919 a French Military Aviation Mission assisted in the formation of the Japanese Army Air Service. The Naval Air Service was begun in the following year, and in 1921 a British Air Mission undertook the reorganisation of the naval side. About three years ago, the status of the military wing was raised by the appointment of an Inspector-General of Military Aviation.

Both the Army and the Navy embarked on an ambitious, five-year, air-expansion scheme. First-line strength was then around 1,900 aircraft, of which about 1,000 were naval types. Of these, some 40 per cent. were ship-borne, and the rest shore-based. As far as aircraft carriers go, Japan claims that the strength of her ship-borne aircraft is surpassed only by Britain and the United States. It is known, however, that the war against China, shortage of raw materials and general disturbance caused by World War conditions have created many difficulties.

Japanese personnel is regarded as good. Discipline is strict and morale high.

The modern Japanese fighters for both the Navy (shore-based) and the Army are single-engined, low-wing monoplanes, with maximum speeds varying from 270–300 m. p. h. at 15,000 ft. The majority of these are equipped with four guns; in some cases two cannon and two machine-guns; the remainder with four machine-guns. But there is a probability that a number of older types of fighters are still in use with top speeds of 250–260 m.p.h. and carrying only two machine-guns. Included among these older types are a few biplanes with a speed around the 200 m.p.h. mark.

The best known of the heavy-bomber type are the Naval Mitsubishi T. 96 and the Army Mitsubishi T. 97. These are twin-engined machines, the former a mid-wing monoplane showing definite Junkers influence in design. These carry on an average 2,000 lb. with a range of about 1,100 miles. The light bombers and reconnaissance aircraft are chiefly single-engined, low-wing monoplanes with maximum speeds of 250–260 m.p.h. and maximum bomb-loads varying between 800–1,000 lb. The two main types of reconnaissance float-planes are the T. 95, a single-engined Ciplane with a single central float and two wing-tip floats, and the T. 97, a mid-wing monoplane with a twin float. This aircraft is very often used as a fighter. The most commonly-used flying-boats are the three-engined T. 96 Mitsubishi and the four-engined Kawanishi T. 97.

HOW FIGHTERS PROTECT COASTAL SHIPPING AROUND BRITAIN.

by

an Airman.

Over the narrow seas around the British Isles an air battle scarcely less vital to this country than was the Battle of Britain is daily being waged by the Fighter Command. It is the battle of British fighters in defence of coastal shipping against *Luftwaffe* convoy raiders and its front is the whole extent of the British Coastline and all that expanse of sea within operational range. In the success with which it has been waged for months past is to be found a perfect example of smoothly working but little heralded inter-service co-operation between Navy and Air Force in the achievement of a common purpose.

FIGHTER "UMBRELLA".

Every convoy and naval escort that leaves or enters a British port comes under the protection of the Fighter Command and throughout daylight hours so long as weather permits, an escort of fighters operating in relays is in close attendance on a convoy until it is safely in port or has passed out of fighter range into the care of the long-range aircraft of the Coastal Command. The scale of this effort can be gauged by the number of sorties made in the course of convoy escort work—a sortie being a simple flight by one aircraft.

153 SORTIES ADAY.

In 12 months last year sorties totalled approximately 55,000—an average of 153 sorties a day. In one month alone over 8,000 sorties were made by fighters in escort of shipping and as many as 18 convoys have come under the protection of the Fighter Command in a single day.

The result has justified the effort. In March, 1941, the worst month in the battle of the narrow seas, ships were sunk by daylight raiders in the course of some 200 attacks. The Fighter Command's reply was a rapid increase in escort strength, and within two months the number of sorties had been quadrupled to reach the peak figure of 8,287 in May. Enemy effort began steadily to dwindle and with it dwindled British shipping losses.

PROGRESSIVE DECREASE.

From 200 in March, attacks dropped to 105 in May and in that month shipping losses by daylight fell by two-thirds. June saw the losses halved again, with only very few ships lost in daylight air attacks. In July and August fighter protection helped to reduce the losses still further despite the long hours of summer daylight. By December the number of daylight attacks,

on coastal shipping had fallen to 30. The decrease was nearly 50 per cent. as compared with the previous month and the lowest number since February, 1941.

The best result the *Luftwaffe* could show for the last six months of 1941 was an average of less than one ship a month sunk by air attack in daylight. Against this meagre result the *Luftwaffe* had a heavy reckoning of its own to set—the aircraft it had lost in its attacks on coastal shipping. In the last five months of 1941, 42 of its aircraft had been destroyed—24 by gunfire from merchant ships and naval vessels, and 18 by fighter escorts.

DETERRENT TO ATTACK.

Opportunities for combat are eagerly seized upon by fighter pilots as welcome breaks in the monotony of their ceaseless patrols, but their victories are identical with the main purpose of fighter escorts which by their mere presence over the convoys serve as an effective deterrent to attack. Already the protective effort daily put forth by the Fighter Command is forcing the enemy more and more to keep away from shipping by day and make his attacks at night or dusk when, though chances of successful direct attack are greatly reduced, fighter opposition must necessarily be less effective.

FEWER DAYLIGHT ATTACKS.

Since March, 1941, when 82 per cent of the *Luftwaffe's* air attacks on coastal shipping were made by daylight, the percentage has fallen steadily. By May, daylight attacks had dropped to 40 per cent in September to 26 per cent and in December only 18 per cent of the total number of enemy air attacks on coastal shipping were delivered during daylight hours.

Thus the Fighter Command by dint of unremitting effort is successfully countering the air menace to convoys on all seas within range of its aircraft. Each week the proportion of enemy attacks to British sorties made grows less while day after day long lines of British convoys, their volume unabated, continue to stream past the coasts or thread the Straits of Dover in daylight beneath the protective screen of their fighter escort.

SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT ANGLO-AMERICAN AGREEMENT.

VALUE OF EARLY FRAMING OF POST-WAR POLICY.

by

H. Wickham Steed—(In a recent B. B. C. talk).

THE AGREEMENT.

The Anglo-American Agreement, was signed at Washington on Monday, February 23, 1942, by Lord Halifax and Mr. Sumner Welles after consultation with the British Dominions. The agreement strikes me as a very big thing, though in form it may appear merely to regulate the working of the Lease and Lend Act between the United States and Britain. It gives effect in substance to one of the most hopeful points in the Atlantic Charter.

THE ATLANTIC CHARTER :—CLAUSE VII.

That Charter, proclaimed by President Roosevelt and Mr. Winston Churchill last August, before the United States entered the war, has sometimes been called vague and for that reason unsatisfactory. Just listen to what Article VII of the Anglo-American Agreement actually says. If I am putting its official language into slightly plainer English, I am not straining or misrepresenting it.

Here it is. "When the time comes to settle what Great Britain shall give the United States in return for help received under the Lease and Lend Act, the settlement shall not hamper trade between the two countries, but shall rather improve it for the benefit of them both and of economic relations throughout the world. So as to do this, the settlement shall contain arrangements for action, agreed upon by the United States and Great Britain; and all other countries who think and feel like them shall have a right to share in these arrangements. The object of the arrangements will be to extend and expand, by proper measures at home and abroad, the production, exchange and consumption of goods as well as employment, which are the material foundations of the freedom and the welfare of all peoples. Further objects of the arrangements will be to cut out all kinds of discriminations in international trade, to lower tariffs and other trade barriers, and in general to carry out the economic principles laid down in the Atlantic Charter. Anglo-American conversations will soon begin upon these matters and upon the best way to bring about action in agreement with other countries which are of the same mind as Britain and the United States".

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

This, I admit, is my own version of the official text. If I understand it rightly it means that the principle of international co-operation in trade and

production is to take the place of ruthless international competition and beggar my neighbour.

The war has shown that, if the free peoples of the world do not hang together, they will hang separately and then they will, one after the other be overthrown and enslaved by the gangster powers. So they have at last got together for the waging and the winning of the war and some of them will see to it that they will have to stay together for the waging and the winning of peace, after the war.

It should be easier for all of them to understand and to do this if they bear in mind what the alternative might be. One reason for the trouble that arose about War Debts and Reparations after the last great war was that a simple economic fact had been overlooked or forgotton. This fact was that great nations, friend and foe, could not shoot away their wealth for years on end in the form of munitions, high explosives and the destruction of life and still be as rich as they were before the war began.

They are all much poorer without knowing it, and so they all talked of making somebody else pay. They found they could not do it and then they tried to improve their own position separately by setting up high tariff barriers and refusing to co-operate.

After this war the world will be a good deal poorer than it was in 1918. There will be no means of getting back to what I sometimes call 'normal conditions' in a hurry—if ever. The only way out will be to aim at a new normality of fairness and helpfulness all round and this new normality will demand a new principle. The principle of asking how much each can put into the common stock of international welfare, not the principle or the practice of seeing how much each can grab for itself without care for others. It is in this spirit, I believe, that the Anglo-American agreement is being concluded. It ought to be the beginning of a common victory over the only things which Germany and Japan have to offer the world—total political domination with total economic enslavement for the conquered or dominated peoples.

FREEDOM OR SLAVERY.

Here again the underlying issue of this war comes into sight. **In sober truth, without rhetoric or exaggeration, that issue lies between freedom and slavery, and when the United Nations say with one accord,** "We shall have freedom", they will be guilty of very loose thinking, unless they can make up their minds that the practice of freedom after the war will demand unselfish co-operation quite as much as it is demanded by the effort to win the war.

"What is the use of talking of what must be done after the war, when we are still a long way from winning the war ?" some people may ask. I for one think it very useful both in itself and as a means of framing policy.

ALLIED PROPAGANDA.

There has been a good deal of criticism, not always unjustified, of the futility of Allied propaganda. In the last war I had something to do with propaganda and I remember that it only became really efficient after it had been based upon a definite policy.

It was not easy to get the Allied governments to accept or to lay down that policy. When they had been persuaded to do it, **propaganda went ahead like a house on fire and soon made Hindenburg, Ludendorff and the German Commanders howl with rage. I think the Anglo-American agreement foreshadows a policy which will be, at the very lowest excellent propaganda.**

The Germans and the Italians are wondering what is to happen to them if they do not win the war. If they see that the United Nations are really getting together for economic co-operation (and let us remember that among the United Nations are countries as vast as Russia and China) the Germans and the Italians, and presently the Japanese, will grow more and more uneasy as they see their rosy dream of world domination grow fainter and fainter.

AXIS POSITION.

Gangsters like Hitler and Mussolini or the Japanese General Staff may cry "Victory or death," but their peoples are not likely to be quite so heroic if they see a chance that, by helping to get rid of the gangsters, they may hope one day to be admitted to a share in the new world economy of freedom.

One of the most important things Premier Stalin has said lately was that Russia was fighting to destroy Hitler and Hitlerism, not to destroy the German people; and on the morrow of his words came the news of the smashing victory at Staraya Russa which may be a prelude to even bigger successes. **Hitler is striving frantically to keep up the spirit of his deluded folk, and Japanese victories have helped him, yet the Germans may soon reflect that Japanese victories are a long way off and German reverses in Russia much nearer home.**

Like us, Stalin knows well that the Germans will still need a lot of battering before they conclude that Hitler and Hitlerism are horribly expensive luxuries and that the rosy dream of world mastery is turning into a nightmare; but I am convinced that they will begin to reach this conclusion before 1942 is over, and that the confidence in the future which is reflected in the Anglo-American agreement will help them to reach it.

PASSO ROMANO.

AT LAST!

Italian blue jackets from the gunboat *Lepanto* boarded and seized the Yugo-Slav vessel *Tomislav*, which was operating under British Charter, and carrying wheat cargoes from Australia. Disaffection among Croat members of the crew led the captain to put in to Shanghai on his return trip. The ship was seized in face of protests from the River Police, and the customs authorities are reported to have made strong representations against this infraction of neutrality. Locally the incident was described as the first Italian naval victory in the war.

MUSSOLINI IN AN OXYGEN TENT.

Fascism is finished as a dynamic political force among the Italian people. It may seem slightly premature to describe it as a corpse. May be old man Furioso Fascismo still has a flutter in his pulse and may be he will even manage to drag his bones around for a while longer. Nevertheless it is apparent that Furioso has gone into one tantrum too many. Both his nerves and his body are shattered and he will never again be the same.

To be quite accurate, Fascism has been in a coma for at least a year now. Inside Adolf Hitler's oxygen tent Mussolini's favourite offspring is still fighting desperately to convince itself, as well as spectators, that it can survive. Nazi oxygen is the only thing that keeps the breath of life in Italian Fascism—and the average Italian would almost as soon die as owe his existence to Hitler and Nazi Germany. Of course, this isn't true of Benito Mussolini. But one always has to make allowances for dictators, just as dictators always make plenty of allowances for themselves.

For Mussolini and for Fascism conditions have changed enormously since October 1940. Most Fascists have lost their faith or whatever hope they had, Mussolini has lost two wars and all of his face except his chin.

Current Affairs.

WARNING.

If Italy is your enemy, send one or two divisions to keep her in check; if she is neutral, employ three divisions to watch over her; but if she is your ally, you must detail ten divisions to save her!

Napoleon.

List of Members of the W. I. B. branches.

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3.	„ P. G. Karuppiah Pandaram ...	Member.
4.	„ A. K. Rengaswami Chettiyar ...	Do.
5.	Janab S. M. Sheik Mohammed Rowther	Do.

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Annavasal.

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5.	Doctor P. Narayanaswami Naidu	...	Do.

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4.	Mr. P. S. Periyayya Navalangiyar, M. L. C.		Do.
5.	„ M. C. S. Sunderrajan Chettiyar	...	Do.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1942—

LECTURE LXXXVIII—(*Batch 5*).

March ...	29, Sunday ...	Municipal office ...	6.30 p. m.
		Tiruvarangulam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Vamban ...	6.30 p. m.
	30, Monday ...	Kulavoipatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilaiyur (South) ...	6.30 p. m.
	31, Tuesday ...	Pallivasal ...	6.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam ...	6.30 p. m.
April ...	1, Wednesday	Puliyur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi ...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Thursday ...	Vellanur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Sembattoor ...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Friday ...	Adanur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Aramanaippatti ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LXXXIX—(*Batch 1*).

	4, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Sunday ...	Nartamalai ...	6.30 p. m.
	6, Monday ...	Do. ...	6.30 p. m.
	7, Tuesday ...	Do. ...	6.30 p. m.
	8, Wednesday	Perungalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Adanakkottai ...	6.30 p. m.
	9, Thursday ...	Arimalam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilanilaikkottai ...	6.30 p. m.
	10, Friday ...	Tirumayyam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Melur ...	6.30 p. m.

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